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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAYS].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 12, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SHAYS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

### RESTITUTION FOR GUAM

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending ceremonies in Honolulu about 10 days ago marking V-J Day and the end of the war in the Pacific.

I was moved by the expressions of gratitude to our veterans who fought in the war in the Pacific, many of whom did not return home, and countless many who were injured and who

bear the scars of war today. We certainly owe them a debt of gratitude.

I want to take this opportunity to call attention to the story of an American community occupied by the enemy during this war, and the brutality visited upon these Americans. Guam was attacked simultaneously with the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Guam was subsequently occupied by the enemy, an occupation that lasted 32 months, from December 10, 1941, to July 21, 1944. Guam was the only American community occupied—some may note that the Aleutian Islands were also occupied, but the Native Alaskans and the military evacuated these islands prior to the start of hostilities. Not since the War of 1812 have American civilians been subjected to an enemy occupation.

The occupation of Guam was made more brutal because of the loyalty of the people of Guam to the United States. This was a time of severe hardship and scarcity of food. This was a time when our people were placed into forced labor to work in rice paddies, to build fortifications for the enemy, and to clear a field by hand for a future airfield. This was a time when many suffered the brutality of beatings, and some were executed by beheading. This was a time when our people, in the closing weeks before liberation, were forced to march to internment camps in southern Guam to await their fate. And this was a time of atrocities, of villagers being rounded up into caves where they were killed by grenades and machinegun fire.

With this kind of war experience, it is not likely that the people of Guam will ever forget the occupation. But it seems that this Nation has forgotten the people of Guam. It certainly seemed that way after World War II when the Treaty of Peace with Japan was signed by the United States, absolving Japan of any war reparations. It certainly seemed that Guam was for-

gotten by the United States Congress in 1948 and again in 1962 when legislation was passed to allow for some compensation to the victims of World War II, but not the victims who were on Guam.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 2041, the Guam War Restitution Act, to address the claims of the people of Guam for the wartime atrocities that we endured. My bill would allow compensation for forced march, forced labor, internment, injury, and death for those who suffered during the occupation.

The amounts authorized for these injuries are modest, and are in line with amounts paid in 1948 to other Americans who were authorized to receive compensation.

It is important, 51 years after the liberation of Guam and 50 years after the end of the war, to bring closure to this issue. This issue is not going to fade away. Federal amnesia about Guam's occupation and the injustice of the way compensation was handled is not going to work. We remember, and we will not forget.

To those who may question why we are coming to Congress for compensation, let me point out two things. First, the Treaty of Peace with Japan takes away our recourse to seek compensation directly from Japan. Second, war claims were paid to other Americans by successive acts of Congress beginning in 1943, and as I mentioned earlier, in corrective legislation in 1948 and 1962 that did not include Guam.

To those who may argue that it should be Japan, not the American taxpayer that pays this bill, let me assure you that we agree. The Federal Government had every opportunity to seize Japanese assets after the war in payment of claims. Furthermore, my bill includes a funding mechanism that would not cost the American taxpayer a dime—Congress may choose to impose a fee on the sale of United States

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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